

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for breaking a task into work granules to assign to processes, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 determining how many processes will be used to execute said task;
4 determining how many granules to divide said task into based on
5 how many processes will be used to execute said task, and
6 a range defined by a first threshold and a second threshold;
7 wherein the first threshold is a minimum number of work granules to assign to each of
8 the processes that will be used to execute said task;
9 wherein the second threshold is a maximum number of work granules to assign to
10 each of the processes that will be used to execute said task; and
11 dividing said task into a number of work granules that allows each process that will be
12 used to execute said task to be assigned a number of work granules that falls
13 within said range.

1 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
2 the step of determining how many granules to divide said task into includes the step of
3 determining a work quantity to equally assign to work granules of said task;
4 and
5 the step of dividing said task into a number of work granules includes dividing said
6 task into work granules that substantially reflect said work quantity.

1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of determining a work quantity includes
2 determining a work quantity that represents an amount of data to access from a
3 database table.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said task entails scanning data that is stored as
2 contiguous sets of data blocks, wherein the method further includes the step of
3 adjusting work assigned to a work granule so that any contiguous set of data blocks
4 scanned by said work granule during execution of the work granule is scanned
5 completely during said execution of the work granule.

1 5. The method of Claim 2, wherein each work granule is associated with one or more
2 ranges of ranges of blocks to scan from a database table, said range corresponding to
3 the work quantity assigned to said work granule.

1 6. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 1.

1 7. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 2.

1 8. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 3.

1 9. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 4.

1 10. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 5.